

ABSTRACT

A data transmission system uses a method of aligning a plurality of transmission lanes with a plurality of reception lanes in a time-division multiplexing arrangement. The method utilizes a plurality of control symbols and lane identifiers that are transmitted on each of the
5 transmission lanes during link initialization and training. The control symbols and lane identifiers are time-division multiplexed onto a data link and subsequently demultiplexed onto the plurality of reception lanes. One of the reception lanes is monitored for receipt of a control symbol followed by a lane identifier. Upon receipt, a lane identifier is compared to the identity of the reception lane being monitored. If the received lane identifier does not match the identity of
10 the reception lane being monitored, the assignment of the reception lanes is rotated.